

Document No. 007NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIEDClass. Change to: SECRETAuth: 12/12/77 By: 008Date: 12/12/77 By: 008

MEMORANDUM FOR: DD/TR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

29 December 1953

EO 130
Orig. 12
to DC/PRS
9/16/54SUBJECT: Nazi Underground Activities in Austria; Recommendations
for Study**NWCDA REVIEW COMPLETE.
NOT-RELEVANT.**

1. When I was at the Hoover Library [REDACTED] I noticed that the Nazi Party in Austria, during the five years in which it was driven underground (1933-38), had developed fairly advanced techniques of clandestine political and psychological warfare. Of course, I had seen the effectiveness of these Nazi underground activities in person but had not thought of it recently until I came in the Hoover Library across a very revealing book on the underground Nazi press in Austria which I utilized for the manual on Clandestine Publications. I listed this book also as number four in Appendix B to my memorandum, dated 27 August 1953, subject:

25X1A

25X1C

2. I discovered in the U.S. army newspaper "Stars and Stripes" of last 18 September a news item datelined Munich, entitled "Workers find old Nazi data on espionage." According to this U.P. story, a 200-pound cache of secret Nazi documents on undercover work in Austria was discovered by wreckers while razing the ruined building of former Nazi Party headquarters in Munich. In addition, the recovered documents are said to include also the Nazi records of Austrian Communist and Socialist activities. The German police stated that the records will be turned over to the Institute for the History of National Socialism in Munich.

3. I submit that the history of Nazi underground activities in Austria is well worth our careful study, not only for historical but for current operational reasons. On the one hand, Nazi underground work in Austria was terminated when the German army occupied Austria in March 1938; after that date, the Austrian Nazis had every reason to boast of their underground achievements and ample, detailed information should therefore be available. Both the Nazi and the Communist Movements are totalitarian in character and there is a far-reaching similarity in their methods: it may only be debatable who copied what from whom. The Nazi Movement, however, being already finished for the time being, gives us a complete "case history" in which we can not only observe clandestine operations from the beginning to the end but also the political background as well as the ultimate results of those activities.

4. I further submit that in a large part of Central and Western Europe Nazi methods of covert political and psychological warfare have been quite

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

successful for a considerable length of time—and even long before they were backed up by the military might of Hitler's army. I believe, there-

25X1C

[REDACTED]
etc., study of Nazi techniques may be of more immediate value than research into the methods used, say, by the Bolsheviks in Russia prior to 1917 (which, however, are also quite interesting—but in another frame of reference).

5. A study of this subject should, therefore, provide us with interesting training material on PP subjects. At the same time, it should

25X1C

[REDACTED]
6. Since I do not know whether such a study ought to be carried out by OTR or by the geographically competent area division of the Clandestine Services or by the appropriate component of PD/I (possibly by way of external research), I submit additional copies of this memorandum which you might wish to forward to whatever other unit of this Agency you consider interested in this proposal.

[REDACTED]
25X1A9A

CONFIDENTIAL